

**International Republican Institute
Agency for International Development
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Quarterly Report
January - April, 2005
HAITI POLITICAL PARTY DEVELOPMENT
Project Dates: September 28, 2001 – September 30, 2006
Total Budget: \$1,700,000 Expenses to date: \$1,357,779.57
Project # 8079**

I. SUMMARY

In the first quarter of 2005, the International Republican Institute undertook an assessment mission to Haiti in anticipation of reengaging in-country for the first time since 1999. In addition, IRI identified and hired three of the program's primary officers: a Haiti-based Resident Country Director and a Haiti-based Assistant Program Officer, as well as a Washington, D.C.-based Assistant Program Officer.

IRI is currently coordinating all logistics related to the opening of its field office in late April 2005. The Haiti program team undertook an assessment mission to Haiti in early March to further evaluate the needs a new office. Opening the Port-au-Prince office will increase IRI's presence on the ground and among political party and civil society leaders, as well as improve the organization's capacity to conduct trainings, meetings, and seminars in Haiti. By re-engaging in-country, IRI will reinforce its contribution to international efforts to support security and stability in Haiti, and in turn, democratic reform within the country.

Throughout the quarter, IRI focused on four primary activities: 1) identifying and hiring new program staff, 2) planning and executing a 5-day assessment mission to Haiti, 3) coordinating all logistics necessary to open a new office in Port-au-Prince, and 4) further developing Haiti political program activities.

II. BACKGROUND

This fall, Haitians will elect a new government. However, while the electoral calendar – as established by the Provisional Electoral Council – is driving Haiti toward transition, many are hesitant to assert that these elections will bring about a change in Haiti's political fortune. In addition to critical concerns about the security and stability of the nation in general, apprehension is fueled by the weakness of the country's political infrastructure.

At present, concerns related to violence and insecurity fuel anxiety related to the elections. In recent weeks, the U.N. peacekeeping force, MINUSTAH, and the Haitian National Police have begun to actively disarm rebel leaders and militants. Nevertheless, a climate of uncertainty clouds electoral prospects.

Over the course of a two-year programming initiative, IRI is working to strengthen Haiti's democratic political infrastructure and the likelihood of a successful, democratic election in late

2005. Through its various programming initiatives, IRI will help accomplish this goal by supporting the development of a credible, competitive, and transparent political environment.

III. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Identifying and Hiring Staff

IRI continued to work to identify an all-together new Haiti program team in early 2005. This includes a Resident Country Director and an Assistant Program Officer to manage and coordinate programming activities on the ground in Haiti, as well as an Assistant Program Officer and Program Assistant to be based in Washington, D.C. IRI has hired new, qualified staff for three of the four positions, and is currently considering candidates for the Program Assistant position. Each member of the Haiti program team speaks French fluently, while the Resident Country Director additionally speaks Haitian Creole.

IRI has also identified critical staff additions for the local office in Port-au-Prince, to be managed by the ex-pat IRI staff. The local staff will include an office manager, two drivers, a part-time accountant, and five project officers/political analysts. The office manager, driver and part-time accountant have all been identified, as well as two of the five project officers. IRI is working to identify and interview additional qualified candidates for the last three project officer positions.

IRI continues to work to introduce all members of its new Haiti program staff to interested parties and stakeholders, both in Washington, D.C. and in Haiti. New staff toured Capitol Hill to meet with various staffers and circulated with members of the democracy community interested in Haiti.

Assessment Mission

The IRI Haiti program team undertook an assessment mission to Port-au-Prince from March 6-March 10, 2005. The objectives of the assessment mission were threefold. First, to perform a logistical assessment of IRI's needs in-country for a new office. Second, the mission facilitated the introduction of the beginnings of the new Haiti program team to political party and civil society leaders, government officials, representatives of international organizations and foreign embassy staff. Finally, the mission was designed to "take the pulse" of the political community through meetings with government officials, political party leaders, civil society leaders, and international organizations and in turn, better grasp various perspectives of the current political and security environment.

IRI met with the following groups, organizations and individuals during its assessment mission to Haiti.

I. Political Parties

- A. Fanmi Lavalas (Moderate faction, including Gérard Gilles)
- B. Fusion Socialiste (formerly PANPRA, KONAKOM, Haiti Kapab)

- C. Grand Force Centre Droit
 - D. Mouvement pour l'Instauration de la Démocratie en Haiti (MIDH)
 - E. Mouvement National Patriotique du 28 (MNP-28)
 - F. Mouvement Chrétien pour une Nouvelle Haiti (MOCHRENA)
 - G. Rassemblement des Démocraties Nationaux Progressistes (RDNP)
 - H. Parti Libéral Haitien
 - I. Tet Ansanm
- II. Civil Society
- A. COHFEL - Coalition Haitienne des Femmes Leaders (Coalition of Haitian Women Political Leaders)
 - B. Fondation Espoir (a non-profit foundation benefiting youth)
 - C. GRAFNEH - Grand Front National des Étudiants Haitiens (Haitian Students)
 - D. Young Entrepreneurs
 - E. Droits Humains (Human Rights)
 - G. Sensibilisation pour le Changement Social
- III. Haitian Government
- A. Président Boniface Alexandre ; Michel Brunache, Chief of Staff
 - B. Premier Ministre Gérard Latortue
 - C. Conseil Electoral Provisoire (CEP) – Max Mathurin, Président; Joséfa Gauthier
 - E. Léon Charles, Chief of Police
- IV. International Organizations
- A. National Democratic Institute (NDI)
 - B. MINUSTAH: Ambassador Juan Gabriel Valdes, Gerardo Lechevalier
- V. US Embassy in Haiti
- A. Doug Griffiths, Deputy Chief of Mission
 - B. Conrad Tribble, Political Counselor
 - C. Jeff Salaiz, Second Secretary, Political Affairs
 - D. USAID: Erna Kerst, Director; Bill Reilly, Democracy and Governance Officer

Following its assessment, the program team compiled its findings related to security, the state of the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP), the role of the government, the role of the international community, the need for political party assistance, and the deleterious presence of drug-traffickers. These findings have been shared with members of Congress and their staff, as well as members of the Haiti International Assessment Committee (see programming). IRI has also continued to update members of the political community in Haiti on the opening of its new office.

Establishing a new Office

Due to security concerns, IRI was compelled to close its last office in Port-au-Prince in 1999. Although IRI has continued to engage political party leaders in trainings and seminars outside the country, it has also continually focused on the need to re-engage in-country. The

current democratic momentum leading up to the fall 2005 elections represents another important political moment for Haiti and IRI is uniquely positioned to help support and reinforce a transparent, democratic environment in anticipation of those the elections. In that vein, IRI has been working this quarter to coordinate all logistics related to re-opening an office in Port-au-Prince. The re-establishment of an in-country office will facilitate IRI's extensive programming plans and also reinforce strong relationships with political party and civil society leadership.

IRI has secured an office space in Pétionville that is easily accessible via car and via public transportation. Modifications are being made to the property to reinforce security. The office will serve as a meeting place for IRI staff and political party leaders and include dedicated space for a political party resource center. The materials necessary to furnish the office space and the resource center are currently being acquired.

Political Programming Activities

To accompany the new office, IRI has worked extensively to plan a quick start in its programming activities once on the ground.

In addition to finalizing program forecasting in its work plan for USAID, IRI has been working to secure the participation of high-level officials for the Haiti International Assessment Committee and to further refine that committee's objectives. Current confirmed membership includes former Senator Bob Graham of Florida, and former Congressman Benjamin Gilman of New York. Barbara McDougall, former Canadian Minister of External Affairs is also a likely member. Additional potential members from the Caribbean and Brazil have been identified.

Lastly, IRI continued to build the website haitigetinvolved.com, a political information source for Haitians and the Haitian Diaspora. IRI's website is updated regularly on current news concerning Haitian security, government, and other important issues concerning Haitians.

IV. EVALUATION

Result 1.

Haitian democratic political parties become more democratic, more transparent, and in the process, more efficient in achieving objectives.

Indicators:

1. Democratic parties will establish national and departmental structures nationwide.

Nothing new to report.

2. Mechanisms for input on party policy from municipal and regional coordinators will be put into place.

Nothing new to report.

3. Parties will publish a party platform with specific proposals in the areas of education, security, Health, justice, agriculture, credit, corruption, international relations, job creation, taxes, trade, etc.

Nothing new to report.

4. Parties will undertake a public relations campaign to communicate to the voters the ideas in their platform.

The coalition of socialist parties hosted nine departmental conventions leading up to a national conference to be held April 22-23. IRI has also followed the national conventions of additional parties, including KID, RDNP and PPRH.

Result 2.

Political parties develop the skills needed to negotiate and resolve contentious issues that create intra- and inter-party conflict.

Indicators:

1. Political parties will create frameworks and initiate inter-party forums at the national and departmental levels in order to identify and resolve inter-party issues.

Nothing new to report.

2. Political parties will sign inter-party agreements that foster a more cooperative political environment by specifically creating pledges of non-violence.

Nothing new to report.

Result 3.

Political parties and civil society groups create alternatives to the use of violence as a political tool.

Indicators:

1. Political parties and civil society will sign a non-violence pact prohibiting the use of violence for any purposes.

Nothing new to report.

2. Youth activists will establish a youth against violence network to help prevent the recruitment of young people for violent acts.

Nothing new to report.

Result 4.

IRI haitigetinvolved.com website becomes an informational resource for Haitians, the Diaspora and the international community.

Indicators:

1. The website will have regularly updated content on the economic, social and political situation in Haiti.

Additional content has been added to the website, including the electoral decree of 2005, a list of political parties, and the collection and archiving of news articles from multiple French, English and Creole journalistic sources. IRI was first to post the electoral decree on the world wide web. The website has also been modified and restructures, and this has resulted in the site showing up well in google, yahoo and other search engines on a wide variety of key word based searches.

2. Political parties will use the website to post meeting schedules, agendas, and non-violence pacts.

A list of political parties has been created and posted, offering a space to the parties to publish and post their agendas, programs, statutes, contact information, and a link to their official site when that information becomes available.

Result 5.

Political parties will increase the interaction of women and youth within their membership as well as support women and youth members as candidates for public office.

Indicators:

1. Women and youth sub-committees will be created within political parties.

Women have established a more prominent role within the socialist party coalition. Women leaders hosted a convention/conference that attracted approximately 1,500 women participants.

2. Political parties will adopt platforms that address priority issues for women and youth.

The Haitian Coalition of Women Leaders (COHFEL) legally registered their organization and formed an executive leadership committee. Leadership and membership in COHFEL spans different political parties and women's organizations with the goal of involving women, regardless of party affiliation, in the political process. COHFEL also worked with the Provisional Electoral Council to include provisions specific to the participation of women in the electoral process in its electoral decree.